

**STS 036  
Industrial Landscapes**

**First Exercise, due in class Tuesday 5 October  
@5 pages**

**Keith Basso describes the ways in which the Apache maintain and control their tribal and personal history by means of naming places in their landscape and telling stories about those places. His work reminds us that places don't often "tell" their history to people, unless something extreme has happened there or the observers are especially skillful at reading landscapes.**

**Industrial, or urban, landscapes are similar to natural landscapes in many ways. They, too, are full of sites where particular things have happened to individuals and groups at particular times. They, too, contain places that are highly symbolic. And they, too, don't often "tell" their stories to the random passer-by.**

**In this exercise, I want you to think about how your own memories and experiences are located in your physical landscape – your dorm or house, the paths you take to classes or parties, your labs and classrooms, public transportation vehicles and stations, stores – anywhere that you have spent a reasonable period of time. Make a map of this landscape, indicating somehow what the various places on the landscape have come to mean to you. That is, what memories or reminders are jogged when you walk down your hall, or across Mass. Ave? How have your experiences gotten lodged in places you pass all the time?**

**You may do this one of two ways. The first way is to use yourself and your personal experiences. The second way is to use a small group of people of which you are a member, using a landscape that you share physically and routinely, especially insofar as you have collective memories about it. But be careful; this is not an ethnography of someone else. It is about your experiences and memories primarily, and if you use a group it should include only places that you all can agree upon.**